

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claim 54 is allowed and that claims 7, 23 and 25 would be allowable if written in independent form.

Claims 1, 5, 22, and 52 have been amended, claims 3, 6, 7 and 53 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 61-71 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments and new claims. For instance, support for the amendments and new claims appears e.g. in the original claims of the application.

At page 2 of the Office Action, it is stated that claims 1-6 and 52-54 are directed to the same invention as claims 1-6 and 51-53 of commonly assigned application number 10/717,975.

Claims 1-6 and 52-54 were also provisional rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 over claims 1-6 and 51-53 of commonly assigned application number 10/717,975.

While Applicants disagree with the issues raised at page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants also will amend the noted claims of application number 10/717,975 to differentiate them from the claims of the instant application.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 22, 24, 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Khojasteh et al. (US Patent Publication 2002/0058204) in view of Brock et al. (US Patent 644408)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 22, 24, 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Brock et al. (US Patent 6444408).

For the sake of brevity, the two Section 103 rejections are addressed in combination.

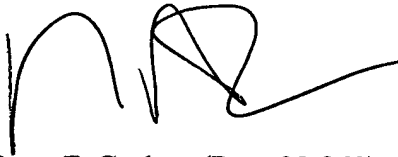
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While Applicants fully disagree with the rejections, it is also believed the rejections are obviated. Each of the pending independent claims recites subject matter indicated to be allowable.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Corless', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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